

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CONGRESSWOMAN PATSY T. MINK 2338 RAYBURN BLDG.,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, VS

1. THE SECRETARY HAS ASKED ME AS HEAD OF THE PRESIDENT'S
TASK FORCE ON VIETNAMESE EVACUATIONS AND REFUGEE AFFAIRS
TO REPLY TO YOUR TELEGRAM INQUIRING ABOUT OUR POLICIES
TOWARD THE RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE IN THE UNITED STATES.

2. FIRST LET ME EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR YOUR POSITIVE
APPROACH TO THIS TREMENDOUS TASK. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU
THAT ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES IN MY GROUP SHARE YOUR DETER-
MINATION THAT THIS RESPONSIBILITY BE CARRIED OUT IN A
MANNER THAT WILL REFLECT THE HUMANITARIAN SPIRIT THAT HAS
TRADITIONALLY CHARACTERIZED OUR COUNTRY, WHILE ENSURING
THAT NO LOCALITY OR GROUP HAS TO BEAR AN UNDUE SHARE OF THE
BURDENS OF THIS GENEROSITY.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION I MIGHT POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE HAD
AN OUTSTANDING RESPONSE FOR OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE FROM A
WIDE VARIETY OF CHURCH, CHARITABLE AND OTHER VOLUNTARY
AGENCIES. WE ARE ALSO MAKING VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO "INTER-
NATIONALIZE" THE RESETTLEMENT EFFORT THROUGH ORGANIZATIONS
SUCH AS THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION, AS WELL
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AS DIRECT APPROACHES TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

4. TURNING TO YOUR SPECIFIC

QUESTIONS, YOU WILL APPRECIATE

THAT SOME OF THESE REPLIES ARE OF NECESSITY GENERAL, AS WE ARE STILL WORKING OUT THE DETAILS WITH INTERESTED COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS, THE FEDERAL AGENCIES INVOLVED, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, ETC.

A) TEMPORARY HOUSING AND PERMANENT RELOCATION.

EVACUEES FROM VIETNAM ARE BEING GIVEN INITIAL CARE AND SCREENING AT STAGING AREAS AT CLARK FIELD, GUAM AND WAKE ISLAND. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT (ASSISTED BY EXPERTS FROM A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE AGENCIES) IS PROVIDING LOGISTICS SUPPORT, WHILE TEAMS OF PUBLIC HEALTH, IMMIGRATION AND CONSULAR OFFICERS ARE SCREENING AND PROCESSING THE EVACUEES FOR PAROLE INTO THE UNITED STATES. AS A LARGE PORTION OF THE FIRST GROUP OF EVACUEES WERE THE DEPENDENTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, THEY ARE MOVING TO THEIR HOME COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AS SOON AS THEY ARE CLEARED.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT WE WILL HAVE TO ESTABLISH A FEW RECEPTION CENTERS AROUND THE U.S. WHERE PAROLEES WILL BE CARED FOR WHILE VOLUNTEER AGENCIES IDENTIFY SPONSORS FOR THEM AND ARRANGE THEIR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT.

B) HEALTH CARE AND SCREENING

YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE MEDICAL SCREENING AND HEALTH CARE OF THESE VIETNAMESE EVACUEES IS SHARED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE, WHICH IS MAKING EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, MILITARY

PERSONNEL, AND LOCAL FACILITIES TO PROTECT THE HEALTH OF BOTH THE EVACUEES AND THE COMMUNITIES INTO WHICH THEY ARE MOVING.

C) FINANCING TO THE STATES

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE IS SEEKING ONE HUNDRED PERCENT FEDERAL FINANCING OF ALL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES (INCLUDING CHILD CARE AND BILINGUAL EDUCATION) FOR THESE VIETNAMESE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE ACT. IF THIS IS APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS, THERE WILL BE MINIMAL FINANCIAL IMPACT ON THE STATES.

FINALLY, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE WILL BE NO MASS

ENTRIES OF "POLITICAL REFUGEES" (CATEGORY D OF H.R.6096)
ON PAROLE. THIS CATEGORY COVERS PREDOMINATELY TRUSTED
VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, AND OTHER
VIETNAMESE EMPLOYEES WHOSE LIVES COULD BE ENDANGERED
BY THEIR PAST CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES.
THESE VIETNAMESE, LIKE OTHERS REFERRED TO ABOVE, WILL BE
EQUITABLY DISTRIBUTED AROUND THE COUNTRY, IN THIS EFFORT,
THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES WILL PLAY A VITAL ROLE.

4. I HOPE THAT THIS INFORMATION WILL BE HELPFUL TO YOU
AND ONCE AGAIN LET ME THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSTRUCTIVE
INTEREST IN THE WORK OF MY TASK FORCE.

WITH BEST WISHES,

L. DEAN BROWN, DIRECTOR, INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE KISSINGER

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